

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MEXICO 12285 242234Z

43

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 /030 W

----- 116834

R 241505Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7593

UNCLAS MEXICO 12285

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, MX

SUBJ: FULBRIGHT/TECNICIANS EXCHANGE

REF: ZIMMERMAN/LEWIS TELCON 9/21/76

1. AS OUTLINED TELCON, FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR RONI UNGER RECEIVED TREASURY CHECK 104,132 DATED SEPTEMBER 14 FOR AMOUNT PESOS 7,494 WHICH AT CURRENT RATE EQUALS DOLS. 380. SINCE GRANT STIPULATES SHE TO RECEIVE DOLS. 600 MONTHLY "PAYABLE IN LOCAL CURRENCY", THIS AMOUNT FAR REDUCED FROM WHAT SHE SUPPOSED RECEIVE. UNGER DID NOT ACCEPT CHECK.

2. EMBASSY RECTIFYING MATTER IN SHORT TERM BY RETURNING CHECK TO TREASURY DEPARTMENT AND MAKING OUT NEW VOUCHER FOR CORRECT AMOUNT IN PESOS AT CURRENT RATE (DOLLAR EQUALS 19.70 PESOS). THIS HOWEVER NOT SUITABLE FOR LONG-TERM SOLUTION. EMBASSY CONCURS IN DEPARTMENT SUGGESTION THAT ALL RESEARCH SCHOLAR GRANTS BE AMENDED TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENTS IN DOLLARS TO AVOID FUTURE PROBLEMS WITH FLUCTUATING PESO EXCHANGE RATE.

3. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT EXPLORE MEANS FOR PAYING RESEARCHERS THROUGH DOLLAR CHECK DEPOSITED TO U.S. BANKING ACCOUNT NEXT YEAR SINCE CURRENT SYSTEM CUMBERSOME AND SUBJECT TO VAGARIES OF POUCH MAIL.
THOMPSON

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